

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 OMB-01 FEA-01

INT-05 OES-03 AID-05 SAM-01 /090 W

----- 003911

R 230748Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5695

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, EGEN, EINV, JA

SUBJECT: VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST OF JAPANESE TRADE AND INDUSTRY
MINISTER

REF: CAIRO 12670

1. EMBOFF HAS REVIEWED WITH OFFICIALS OF FONOFF (KOJIMA, SECOND MIDDLE EAST DIV AND SEZAKI, FIRST ECONOMIC COOPERATION DIV) AND MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (INOUE, ECONOMIC COOPERATION DIV) MITI MINISTER KOMOTO'S PLANNED TRIP TO THE MID EAST.

2. KOMOTO HOPES TO DEPART JAPAN JAN 4 FOR VISITS TO IRAN, IRAQ, EGYPT, AND SAUDI ARABIA BUT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DEFINITELY DECIDED BY GOJ THAT HE WILL GO. AS OF DEC 17 ALL WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE KOMOTO DURING THE PROPOSED DATES; GOJ WAS STILL AWAITING A RESPONSE FROM THE SAUDIS. FURTHERMORE, KOMOTO'S TRIP IS CONDITIONAL ON GOJ'S COMPLETING ITS

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ANNUAL BUDGET EXERCISE WITHIN THIS CALENDAR YEAR,

AND FULFILLMENT OF THIS CONDITION IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN.
TRIP'S DATES THUS MAY BE REVISED OR TRIP ITSELF CANCELLED.

3. ACCORDING TO MITI REP (INOUE), KOMOTO'S PURPOSE IS TO FOLLOW UP, AT STRONG REQUEST OF PM MIKI, MIKI'S OWN TRIP TO ME IN LATE 1973. ACCORDING TO KOJIMA OF FONOFF'S ME DIV, KOMOTO HIMSELF IS EAGER TO VISIT ME, ESPECIALLY SAUDI ARABIA. HOWEVER, SAID KOJIMA, IN GOJ VIEW TRIP'S PURPOSE SHOULD BE IN NATURE OF GOOD WILL VISIT AND NOT FOR DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF PARTICULAR ITEMS OF ECONOMIC OR TECHNICAL COOPERATION. EVEN SO, FONOFF IS PREPARING PAPERS FOR KOMOTO'S USE IN RESPONDING TO ANY CONCRETE PROPOSAL WHICH HOST COUNTRIES MAY RAISE RE LARGE OIL-RELATED PROJECTS OR TECHNICAL COOPERATION. KOJIMA SAID HE DOES NOT THINK GOJ IS IN A POSITION TO EXTEND BIG NEW LOANS TO HOST COUNTRIES, THOUGH GOJ CAN ALWAYS PROMISE TO STUDY REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL LOANS. SEZAKI OF FIRST ECONOMIC COOPERATION DIV, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AID LOANS, SIMILARLY SAID THAT HE DOUBTS NEW PROMISES OF JAPANESE AID WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN VIEW MANY OUT-STANDING AID PROMISES WHICH REMAIN TO BE FULFILLED. INOUE OF MITI TOOK MORE POSITIVE LINE ON SUBJECT OF NEW AID THAN FONOFF REPS, SUGGESTING THAT KOMOTO MIGHT WILL PROMISE NEW AID DURING HIS VISIT.

4. ON QUESTION OF AID TO EGYPT (REFTEL PARA 3), SEZAKI NOTED THERE HAD BEEN QTE NO PROGRESS UNQTE ON EARLIER PROMISED JAPANESE COMMODITY AND PROJECT AID. RE COMMODITY AID, SEZAKI SAID LOAN AGREEMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SIGNED. RE PROJECT AID, GOJ IS STILL WAITING FOR BIDDING ON CAIRO WATER SUPPLY PROJECT; ALEXANDRIA PORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT HAS BEEN SUBSUMED INTO LARGER PROJECT TO BE JOINTLY FINANCED WITH IBRD, AND IBRD IS NOW PREPARING FEASIBILITY STUDY ON ENLARGED PROJECT.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: EMBASSY FEELS KOMOTO'S DISCUSSIONS ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO ADDRESS NUMEROUS PENDING QUESTIONS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION THAN NEW OFFERS OF AID. JAPAN'S CONTINUING RECESSION AND BUDGETARY PRESSURES, SENTIMENT IN JAPAN THAT ODA SHOULD NOT GO TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEALTHY OIL PRODUCERS, A MORE RELAXED JAPANESE ATTITUDE (COMPARED TO LATE 1973 AND EARLY 1974) TOWARDS SECURITY OF THEIR OIL IMPORTS FROM MIDDLE EAST, AND, IN EGYPT'S CASE, LACK OF PROGRESS ON EARLIER AID PROMISES, ALL MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT JAPAN WILL UNDERTAKE NEW AID COMMITMENTS IN ME AT THIS TIME. END COMMENT.
HODGSON

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